

**ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD  
PINETOP-LAKESIDE TOWN HALL, EXECUTIVE ROOM  
1360 N. NIELS HANSEN LANE  
LAKESIDE, AZ  
MAY 25, 2005  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Elizabeth Stewart, Chairman  
William Porter  
William Cordasco  
William Scalzo  
John Hays

**Board Members Absent:**

Janice Chilton  
Mark Winkleman

**Staff Present:**

Kenneth E. Travous, Executive Director  
Jay Ream, Assistant Director, Parks  
Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director, External Affairs and Partnerships  
Cristie Statler, Executive Consultant  
Debi Busser, Executive Secretary

**Attorney General's Office:**

Joy Hernbrode, Assistant Attorney General

**A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll Call indicated that a quorum was present.

**B. FOOL HOLLOW LAKE STATE PARK REPORT**

Mr. James Wilson, Park Manager, Fool Hollow Lake State Park welcomed the Board to Lakeside. He stated that he is the Recreation Area Manager at Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area. This area is slightly different from Arizona's other state parks. It is a unique cooperative venture between several governmental entities and, initially, between several private entities. He stated that Ms. Sharon Wallace, US Forest Service (USFS), and Mr. Joel Weeks, City of Show Low would address the Board and then he would finish by tying up some loose ends and providing information about the recreation area.

Ms. Sharon Wallace, USFS, Apache-Sitgreaves, Lakeside Ranger District, addressed the Board. She stated that this year is the Centennial of the USFS. She distributed some pins for the Board. She stated that she is responsible for recreation lands and minerals in the district.

Ms. Wallace stated that this unique partnership began in 1988 with four governmental entities and two private entities that had needs they wanted to address. Arizona State Parks (ASP) wanted a high-elevation park area. The City wanted a destination location where people could come and stay in the City of Show Low. Arizona Game and Fish owned the water rights to the lake and wanted to develop it as a fishing area. The USFS had the land but no funds to develop it. There were two private entities: Arizona Public Service (APS) and McCardi Construction who also participated in the initial construction phase. Everyone pooled their special resources together and pulled off the "park" (it's really a recreation area – the USFS does not have parks).

Ms. Wallace reported that construction began in 1991. In the 8 years of construction the partnerships

invested approximately \$10 million in improvements. ASP contributed about 51% through various funds it had available (SLIF, ADOT HURF, and State Parks Development funds), the USFS contributed 47% in federal dollars, the City, APS, and McCardi Construction contributed 2% in varying amounts. The park is currently about 85% built. They still want to have a group camping area there because a lot of large families and groups come up to the Pines in the summer and would like some place to hang out. A funding source has not yet been identified. Operation and maintenance responsibilities belong to the park.

Ms. Wallace stated that in 1992 the USFS issued a Concessionaire Permit (a special permit that allows the funding to be transferred). The USFS gets about 10% of the front gate collections back. That 10% goes to basic heavy maintenance and repair and interpretation. About 5% of that money goes to pay for an interpreter and a USFS uniform who goes out and does campfire talks and “Smokey” stuff.

Ms. Wallace noted that a meeting is held annually between all of the partners to discuss issues of common interest, whether it be the boundary of the park or internal to the park, they all work on it. The strengths of the partnership may not be obvious on the surface. Some of the strengths that the USFS brings include fire training and land acquisitions or exchanges in the general area to add to the boundary of the recreation area so that private land subdivisions do not get built right up on the boundary of the lake.

Ms. Wallace stated that, looking back over the 13 years of the operation, the District Ranger can honestly say that he’s very pleased with the partnership. It is alive and well. It is wonderful partnership. She noted that she got here about four years ago and it was a well-oiled machine then. It’s amazing how they get together and figure out whose bureaucratic rules are easier to work with on any particular matter. She added that the District Ranger is personally pleased that the recreation area has turned into such a quality destination recreation site. Taxpayers at all levels can be proud of the results and the way the parties work together.

Chairman Stewart noted that while traveling last summer in another state she picked up a brochure that the USFS put out in a public land office. It had ten outstanding properties and she was very pleased to see that Fool Hollow Lake was included. It certainly is a reflection on the great partnership as well as the wonderful resource.

Ms. Wallace added that the Lakeside Ranger District has benefited from ASP grants to the tune of about 180 miles of trails on the Lakeside District alone. They love the Heritage Fund and RTP money. Without it they wouldn’t have any trails out there in the woods.

Mr. Joel Weeks, Community Services Director, City of Show Low, addressed the Board. He stated that they are happy to brag about this partnership. He has been in the recreation profession since 1980 when he was with the City of Tempe. He came to Show Low about 8.5 years ago. He became involved in this partnership when he first got to Show Low. Working with people like Ms. Wallace, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Cooley has been a pleasure. He noted that the people of Show Low have never forgiven ASP for changing the name – it’s “Fools Hollow” not “Fool Hollow”. The city supports this partnership. One of the initial problems was in regard to vandalism. Because part of the park was not in the city limits the County Sheriff’s Department had to respond. The city has expanded the boundary of the city limits and the entire park is now within the city limits. It has made a difference in terms of that issue.

Mr. Weeks stated that a destination recreation site such as this within the city limits brings people into the community, which is good. They like the sales tax revenue generated by people who come and shop in the stores. The most important benefit, however, is the quality of life. Many of the residents take advantage of the day rates. Some still complain that they can’t go in and fish like they used to for free. They recently ran a triathlon on the lake. They partnered with a group out of Tucson. It was a nice venue. National Trails Day is hosted there every other year. There are a number of events held at the recreation area. The local people use it as well as people from outside the community. The

City is happy to be a part of it. The City's initial investment was in the neighborhood of \$1 million. The SLIF and other grants they get are funneled through the City. They are very grateful for their partners and for the great facility that it is. It's made a definite difference in the quality of life for the people who come here and the people who live here.

Mr. Porter asked how the name came to be changed.

Mr. Wilson responded that ADOT actually had "Fool Hollow" on their map. When the legislation went to the legislature, they called ADOT and asked if it was "Fools Hollow" or "Fool Hollow" and ADOT replied that it was "Fool Hollow". The legislation then designated it as "Fool Hollow". He added that the ADOT signs say "Fool Hollow" but the city's signs all say "Fools Hollow".

Mr. Jon Cooley, Regional Supervisor in Pinetop, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Region 1, addressed the Board. He stated that he is new to the partnership, having been with the Department for just over a year. One of the first calls he received when he became Regional Supervisor was from Mr. Wilson. He has learned a lot about the partnership through the annual coordination meeting that he probably would not have known about otherwise. He has personally been impressed on an operational level. This is truly a business partnership. They all bring something to the table as far as the administration of the area. Their interests are in the realm of recreation – fishing, boating, etc. Mr. Wilson and his crew and the other partners have been outstanding in terms of accommodating their interests. He believes that, as much as possible, they try to reflect the broader public interests. It has been a smooth partnership in terms of general operations. The city and ASP staff have been very helpful in helping to address enforcement issues that have come up in the past. There are always issues that must be dealt with.

Mr. Cooley added that it is apparent in the meetings and communications that have taken place that there are people who are looking ahead. That's encouraging because sometimes there is a tendency to react to situations as they develop. It's unavoidable. This group is always looking out ahead. This is a very dynamic area in terms of growth and expansion. There are some forward-looking people who are thinking about the big picture. They have challenges to meet in their respective areas. It gives his agency a lot of comfort knowing that the partners are there to leverage their resources and time where needed in dealing with issues some of which are significant.

Mr. Cooley stated that, on a personal note, he is a native of the area. Speaking as a resident of the area, he believes Fool Hollow is a great place. He takes his family there all the time. There are great accommodations and great amenities. As an agency, they look forward to working with ASP and highlighting the fishing and boating opportunities. Those are the focus of his agency. He has nothing but good things to say about the partnership.

Mr. Wilson distributed park brochures. He stated that he has been the Park Manager at Fool Hollow Lake for about the last 2.5 years, having replaced Mr. Mike Sipes. He came into a well-oiled machine. This has been a very good partnership for ASP, the USFS, AZ Game and Fish, and the City of Show Low.

Mr. Wilson reported that they are addressing certain issues at this point in time. They have been hit very hard by bark beetle infestation. They have hundreds and hundreds of trees that are now down inside the recreation area – either dead or dying. They are getting ready to enter into an Interagency Service Agreement with the Land Department. They have money from the Governor to do abatement with fire crews coming through the AZ Department of Corrections. There have been a couple of days where they've been out doing their training. They are now getting ready to have 20-person crews come out instead of a couple of people from USFS who have very graciously been helping to cut down trees with the park staff, who are very stretched at all times.

Mr. Wilson stated that they are an extremely busy recreation area. The main season begins mid-May and runs through mid-September and, weather permitting, into October. In that short period of time the recreation area brings in quite a number of visitors to the Show Low area. It has a decided

economic impact on this community. There are a lot of return customers and there are a lot of customers who have stayed at the recreation area and ended up buying property here, both summer and year-round property. Having the ASP name in the area is good. There are some people still fighting the old battle of they used to be able to drive right down to the lake and they can't do that any more. Times are changing. The vast majority of the community is very happy with the agency. We bring in several millions of dollars to this community. People camp at Fool Hollow and go in to Show Low and spend their money on fishing equipment, restaurants, hotels, tours, etc.

Mr. Wilson invited the Board to stop by Fool Hollow after the meeting for a tour. The words and the pictures in the brochure do not do the recreation area justice. It is a beautiful area. There is a very dedicated group of people within and without ASP who take a great deal of pride in this particular operation. He cannot speak highly enough of them.

Mr. Porter noted that he is also Chairman of the State History Convention. He noted that the Convention was just held in Flagstaff and it was marvelous. In 2007 the Convention will be coming to this area and be centered at Hon Dah. He and Ms. Stewart will be anxious to see this park have the opportunity to shine and play a pivotal role in the Convention.

### **C. WELCOMING REMARKS**

Mr. Ream noted that the Mayor of Show Low was invited to speak to the Board but was unavailable. He sent Mr. Weeks to this meeting as his representative.

### **D. CONSIDER EXPANSION OF VERDE RIVER GREENWAY**

#### **1. Presentation by The Nature Conservancy and Salt River Project**

Mr. Travous reported that the Board has been talking about this issue over the last six or eight months. Approximately 20 years ago Governor Bruce Babbitt, with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), approached staff in the hope of getting ASP engaged in protection of the Verde River. He was personally involved in it and was talking with Burton Barr, Mr. Hays, and other legislators at that time. TNC began buying properties. They, and ASP staff, discovered that Governor Babbitt had previously gone and talked to property owners. As soon as Governor Babbitt walked onto the properties, the prices started going up. Governor Babbitt stopped visiting the properties and TNC went in and began talking to people up and down the area. The Parks Board passed a motion at a subsequent meeting that said it was interested in the protection of the Verde River Greenway consisting of the connected properties between the Bridgeport and Tuzigoot Bridges. Great headway has been made, but there are some connections that still need to be done.

Mr. Travous stated that staff began having meetings in the community and the community really took over and created the Verde River Greenway plan. Staff followed up with purchasing properties up and down the river. Within the last year or so staff have been looking beyond the borders at the I-17 bridge with the knowledge that there are properties up there for sale. This last year a lot of the area was flooded because of the unusual rains that fell. SRP was buying property to mitigate the Willow Flycatcher from work it had done on both Horseshoe Lake and Roosevelt Lake. It occurred to staff that SRP is not in the land management business, but ASP is. If there's a way to develop a partnership with SRP and continue the partnership with TNC, the Board should look at expanding the agency's role on the Verde River and take it from the Bridgeport Bridge down to Beasley Flats where the USFS lands then pick up.

Mr. Travous noted that he's been on most of that stretch of the river. Staff are running into some of the same issues they ran into in the Cottonwood area. A lot of the areas are developed, but a lot are looking to sell because of the floods. The staff recommendation to the Board is to expand the concept from Beasley Flats to the Bridgeport Bridge area. This is a project that will take 50-100 years.

Mr. Travous noted that SRP is not at the meeting today. Staff encountered difficulty contacting them last week. Mr. Dan Campbell could not be present at this meeting. He has been in contact



with SRP. SRP is under the gun to ensure that whatever they do they get credit for mitigation of the Willow Flycatcher. They want to ensure that that is first and foremost in what they do. To the extent that they can do that, they want to enter into a partnership with ASP. Staff want to continue the partnership with TNC who has a good and long-standing relationship with SRP. He introduced Mr. Pat Graham to discuss that partnership.

Mr. Pat Graham, State Director for The Nature Conservancy based out of Phoenix, addressed the Board. Mr. Graham stated that TNC has been involved with the Verde River. They have been in the State of Arizona for nearly 40 years, bringing people and resources together to try to protect the land and water and the way of life we enjoy here in Arizona. The Verde River is a particularly important resource area. They currently have five focus areas in the State of Arizona. With all of the challenges they have, they must focus their attention and resources just as the Board does. One of those five areas of focus is the Verde River Watershed, literally from stem to stern. They have a lot of work going on in the headwaters in the Big Chino Basin working with cities across Prescott Valley and Chino Valley to try to ensure that there is a Verde River to enjoy. They have worked closely, in part there and in other areas, with SRP, who owns the water rights for most of the Verde River. They have a particular interest as to all the downstream water users, including the communities of Cottonwood to Camp Verde and all the way down to Phoenix. The Verde River supplies about a third of the water supply for SRP. It is a significant water source for the State of Arizona.

Mr. Graham noted that it also has native fisheries in it. At one time it was ranked as the second best native fishery in the State of Arizona. It has important ecological characteristics. The riparian areas, the corridor being discussed today, is probably the kind of habitat that's been impacted most in the West, and certainly in Arizona, particularly in the lowlands. The riparian (stream side) vegetation that would be protected as part of this corridor is probably the most threatened habitat in the State of Arizona. Identifying and creating a plan around its conservation is very timely.

Mr. Graham noted that SRP and others have an interest in this because of because of their reservoirs to mitigate for impact to the Willow Flycatchers. There are opportunities here for some creative partnerships that allow for meeting more than one need. The other thing that interests his organization is helping to work on those kinds of creative partnerships. If they are simple and straightforward then there isn't a need for TNC to be involved. It almost seems that the more complicated they are the more opportunity there is for them to be partners. They enjoy those kinds of opportunities.

Mr. Graham stated prior to taking this position he was Director of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in the State of Montana. He has a real appreciation for running a park system. Expanding something like this comes after weighing a lot of different things. It isn't just how to piece together a greenway, which in and of itself is a challenge. It includes the obligations that are taken on in addition to that. He believes that, because of the mitigation opportunities, there is a way to be creative in terms of creating finances through, potentially, mitigation banking and other mechanisms that could be used to acquire and protect the greenway and create funding sources that could be used to help manage the properties in the forefront. Without that framework, those opportunities will get lost and will be piecemealed off here and there. It will be very hard and complicated to pull it back together again in the future because people are going to get focused on their own particular approach. He believes there is a real opportunity; the time is ripe right now; the Board has made a lot of progress in the area of the greenway. There is a huge focus on this area.

Mr. Graham reported that TNC has just partnered with SRP on some things in the San Pedro, but they also just partnered with them on producing a video for the Verde River. An exact roll-out date has not been scheduled. It is a short video that highlights the values of the resources that the Verde River represents to the State of Arizona. They will let the Board know when they are ready to roll it out. It should be ready by next Fall. SRP have been gracious enough to provide their staff to put the video together for TNC. He saw a preview last week and it is an outstanding piece. They want it to

be timeless in the sense that it is something that will be used in different settings for many years to come. An ASP employee on the greenway was interviewed on that video.

Mr. Graham added that TNC sometimes helps in the area of transactions. It is perhaps easier for them to step in and provide bridge financing in some of these deals where there are three-way entities; they are willing to entertain those opportunities as well.

Chairman Stewart asked what specific areas TNC are working on in the greenway.

Mr. Graham responded that there are some properties around the Camp Verde entrance. They have been working with the USFS on some properties upstream from the Verde River as well. They have been working the headwaters for some time. Their interests are stretched beyond the greenway. However, they see this as a very important opportunity to be of assistance.

Mr. Hays asked if there is any place on the Verde River where USFS or state land actually comes down to the river or if it was all homesteaded.

Mr. Graham responded that there is some State Trust land along the river, but really not very much. There is a lot of public land south and to the north. Part of the State Trust Land Reform addresses some of these parcels along the greenway as well.

Chairman Stewart asked what kind of restrictions in usage Mr. Graham foresees if this is used as mitigation land.

Mr. Graham responded that that would be negotiated. The USFS would be the entity that would be dictating some of the constraints. TNC put some mitigation on some property along the San Pedro River with the Bureau of Reclamation. At that time the Fish and Wildlife Service was not involved because they did not consider the Willow Flycatcher habitat. Subsequent to that, however, there are now Willow Flycatchers breeding there. He can't say exactly what their restrictions would be. The use issues are some of the sensitive issues in terms of use and how the river corridor would be used. Those are things that would have to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Some areas might be more restricted than others. It would be looked at property by property. From his experience, he believes it could be workable within the concept of the existing greenway.

Chairman Stewart asked if there are normally any restrictions placed on use of the waterway that goes through the habitat.

Mr. Graham responded negatively. He doesn't believe they would have jurisdiction over that any way because the landowner couldn't restrict the stream. The easement would be on the land itself rather than on the water. If it became a National Wildlife Refuge there might be some restrictions. That would be the advantage of being engaged with them now. Those kinds of things could be factored in as these things are being done. If the party looking for mitigation is not thinking about anything but getting their maximum benefit out of it, they won't propose other recreational opportunities without having someone there to represent those interests. This speaks to why they want to have ASP involved.

Mr. Graham thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

## **2. Staff Recommendation**

- a. Staff recommends expanding the concept of the Verde River Greenway from Bridgeport to Beasley Flats

Mr. Travous noted that Tonto Natural Bridge, Kartchner Caverns, the San Rafael Ranch, and the Heritage Fund are four things that the TNC has been intimately involved in. Some of the best things that have happened in our organization have been through partnership with TNC. They bring things to the table that staff cannot. They do so many deals that they have a bigger toolbox of experiences than staff have when it comes to figuring out ways to make something work. That's why he likes to have them as a partner. They are a bunch of real smart people. If we get real smart people to partner

with us we are better off. That is one reason he would like to see the Board go forward with this, recognizing that if the Board expands the Greenway staff would continue to do it as they have in the past. It just gives staff the authority to look at properties between those two areas. Staff would report on the properties they are looking at and bring recommendations to the Board just as they have on the other properties. At this juncture, it just expands the properties staff can look at beyond the Bridgeport Bridge.

Chairman Stewart noted that expanding the concept does not give authorization to purchase any specific piece of property; it just authorizes staff to explore possibilities and bring them back to the Board.

Mr. Hays asked whether the Board needed to take action today. He felt that the Board should take action because every month that goes by everything becomes more costly in that area. The Board ought to be in a position to move quickly, and in some cases, very quickly, to secure really key pieces of connected greenway. Time is of the essence.

Chairman Stewart expressed her agreement with Mr. Hays' comments. When she toured it last month with Mr. Castillo, he pointed out a number of properties where the owners are interested in selling now. He has not been able to really engage in any discussions because the Board had set these other boundaries.

### **Board Action**

Mr. Porter: I move that the Board expand the concept of the Verde River Greenway from Bridgeport to Beasley Flats.

Mr. Hays seconded the motion.

Mr. Cordasco noted that Mr. Travous mentioned that a timeline could last 50-100 years. With that comes some opportunities to consider, the options of which are unknown today. The Board does not have big pots of money to begin to roll out properties. A comment was also made that when Governor Babbitt happened to show up on properties the values began to rise. He asked what expanding "the concept" means. He appreciates that it means something along this river. What is it that the Board is saying it will be if it ends up being a parcel here and another parcel there and another down there. He wondered how many parcels there may be just along the Verde River system. Funding is always an issue, as is the Willow Flycatcher. On the one hand, one sees the brown going up through the map that suggests a 100 Year Flood Plain. A Flood Plain probably means a lower best use than other values. However, the Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, the riparian habitat, etc., have values. SRP has a mandate to protect this Willow Flycatcher, which becomes an opportunity. However, how long will that Willow Flycatcher be something that can be tapped into for mitigation. Another question he has is the commitment of Cottonwood and Camp Verde. They both just did their Regional Plans. They did it by parcels they wanted to remain open space for the sake of having open space. It really wasn't in line with the Greenway. There needs to be flexibility so that ASP can enter into contracts if there is an opportunity to gain some land today without having a long process to go through so that by then it's doubled in value. It brings him back to what is the process; what is entailed in getting it together. TNC is a great partner, as was suggested. Perhaps they would be willing to take on some of that responsibility of putting that concept together.

Mr. Porter responded that the concept already exists. There is an existent Verde River Greenway concept.

Chairman Stewart added that perhaps the word "concept" is part of the problem. Perhaps what the Board is really talking about is expanding the project area or the boundaries of the Greenway as opposed to "concept".

Mr. Travous responded that staff are talking about expanding the boundaries of the project.

Mr. Porter then stated his wish to amend his motion as follows:

Mr. Porter: I move that the Board expand the boundaries of the Verde River Greenway from Bridgeport to Beasley Flats.

Mr. Hays, as the second to the original motion, seconded the amended motion.

Mr. Cordasco asked that his questions not be misunderstood. He wants to see a successful plan. Clearly, a high bar has been set from Beasley Flats on up. It probably can be accomplished. It's not just thinking that it's simply negotiating with landowners and thinking that some day this will all work out.

Chairman Stewart noted that Mr. Cordasco is saying there needs to be a plan for acquisition and management prior to just purchasing land.

Mr. Hays stated that TNC would probably be the largest land brokers. He asked how and if TNC would want to fit in.

Mr. Graham stated he would defer to Mr. Travous. He added that Mr. Cordasco's points are well taken. One doesn't just jump into something like this and hope it works out. A plan does need to be developed. He understands that, in discussions with ASP staff, there would be a plan put together to answer those questions in order to have something defensible in terms of an approach on use of the agency's dollars. That plan doesn't exist yet in the detail needed to answer those questions. TNC has offered, if there is something they can provide from their experience and science, to help bring that plan together. He understands that the local communities would be invited to provide their comments as well.

Chairman Stewart noted that Mr. Castillo has done some of these things. As they visited various areas last month, he pointed out areas on the map and discussed potential partnerships and conversations that have taken place. The Board needs to come up with something more formal.

Mr. Travous explained that the original concept on the Verde River Greenway was to take those areas that are in the flood plain and will be washed out at least every 100 years and have properties that are connected (preferably on both sides of the river) in the flood plain between those two areas. Basically, it began as a greenway park idea where the cottonwoods would grow back up within the flood plain. Since then, it became a focal point; a critical mass was created where people who had property knew that ASP was interested and they would come to staff and say they were interested in selling off the lower 20 acres of their 200 acres that is in the flood plain to the agency. What he sees happening is that SRP will have some ideas they will come up with. They now have a focal point from a management standpoint that they can bounce it off of. They don't normally manage lands like this. Camp Verde has open space needs. The Board could meet their open space needs by buying a piece of property and also meet SRP's needs by diverting the trail around the primary Willow Flycatcher habitat and people would still have access. It won't be everything and every place. It will take its own shape to some extent.

Chairman Stewart noted that it will enable Dead Horse Ranch State Park to expand the canoeing and kayaking opportunities. They really don't promote those opportunities now because there isn't a place to take out. A couple of years ago the Board expanded the definition of state trails to include water trails. It would be nice to have this designated as a water trail that connects up with Fort Verde State Park. It is a nice concept to work towards.

Mr. Scalzo called for the question.

Chairman Stewart called for vote on the motion on the floor. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Stewart called for a recess at 2:26 p.m. She reconvened the meeting at 2:38 p.m.



## **E. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARIZONA STATE PARKS CLIMBING PARK**

### **1. Presentation by Western Land Group**

Mr. Travous introduced Mr. Tom Glass, Western Land Group (WLG). He noted that this Agenda item must have intrigued the Board members. This opportunity began with a phone call he received two or three months ago from a colleague who warned him that Mr. Glass would be calling and to not hang up the phone on him. Mr. Glass came by and they had a cup of coffee. Mr. Glass is with the WLG and is working on this project as part of the Resolution Copper Company's issue resulting from their land trades. He is a former state legislator and current Board Member of Colorado State Parks. One thing led to another and last month Mr. Travous and Chairman Stewart and people who are experts in climbing participated in a helicopter tour of this property. It is a new opportunity for the agency. Mr. Glass, his group, and Mr. Ream have prepared presentations to enlighten the Board as best they can.

Mr. Tom Glass, WLG, addressed the Board. He stated that the idea to call Mr. Travous came to him in a Colorado State Parks meeting. He was working pretty much 24 hours a day on the Resolution project. What the Board is going to get today is the convergence of a lot of things. The stars just seemed to line up and it is a tremendous opportunity for the Board as a State Parks Board.

Mr. Glass introduced Mr. Bruno Hegner, Vice President and General Manager of Resolution Copper Company. He is a board member at Boyce Thompson Arboretum and has been tremendously involved in trails and other things. He then introduced Mr. John Sherman, an author of climbing publications. Mr. Hegner hired WLG to put together a land exchange. They will be talking a little bit about the rules of fair market value for fair market value. They went around the state and talked to USFS, BLM, TNC, Audubon Society and others regarding appropriate properties for their land exchange. There are three issues involved. First, the long-term integrity of Apache Lake; secondly, camping. There is a camp ground there that is rather old and tired. It has 14 developed sites. They worked with the USFS and the Town of Superior and other groups. Thirdly is climbing. Much of the climbing in the Superior area is on Resolution's private land in Queen Creek Canyon. Resolution owns all of Queen Creek Canyon and there is some climbing at Apache Lake. For all practical purposes, even before this land exchange, Resolution owns virtually all of Apache Lake today.

Mr. Glass stated that, as a State Parks Board member, he was sitting in a meeting realizing that Mr. Sherman had discovered, much to his amazement and delight, one of the great climbing areas in the Southwestern US. It was right under everyone's nose; no one knew that it existed. He wished that Colorado had something like this. They have two parks, El Dorado Springs (outside of Boulder, it is a tremendous asset that people from all over the country come to climb) and a new park at Rightful, CO, that is a tremendous asset filled with climbers. They are selling more park passes, campsites, etc., at these parks.

Mr. Glass noted that Chairman Stewart asked them to look at some numbers and to come with statistics. He got some data from the Outdoor Recreation industry. Nationally, 5.3 million (2.4%) Americans 16 and older climb artificial walls each year. It is huge in Arizona where there are 133,000 people who climb artificial walls in gyms in Phoenix each year. On natural rock, 5 million (2.3%) Americans 16 and older rock climb each year. In Arizona, there are 168,000 active rock climbers each year. It is a huge number. It is a much bigger sport with a much larger following. These are people earning \$60,000 per year; they sound like park visitors in Colorado and perhaps like the park visitors in Arizona. The system really wants people 15-35 years old. It is a growing, popular sport. Arizona has an asset. He would say that this asset is so extraordinary that he believes it will attract international and national visitors in addition to being a tremendous resource.

Mr. Glass stated that it is only because of Mr. Hegner that they can do this. He gave them the ability to go into an exploration program with Mr. Sherman that is like what any great mining company would do – look at the geology, fly the best people around in helicopters. He introduced Mr. Hegner.

The company wants to truly do the right thing by the climbers in Arizona that will be displaced at Oak Flats.

Mr. Hegner addressed the Board. He stated that he wanted to discuss three things: who Resolution Copper Co. is; why they are at this point and why they have been engaging in this program; and why it is important to the communities within the Resolution orbit.

Mr. Hegner stated that Resolution Copper Co. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto, based in London. They have been in business for about 135 years; they are the largest diversified miner in the world and certainly the most profitable mining company in the world. Their company believes very strongly that if they are going to be in business for another 135 years they have to take stock of the modern world. When people hear that they are going to develop a mine literally in their backyards, they rarely become enthused. They need to create the social license above and beyond what their legal rights are on this property in order to go forward. That is what they've done. They worked very closely with the community in Superior over a period of about three years to find out what the community's concerns are. Those concerns were protecting Apache Lake, creating a new campground, and finding alternatives for the recreational resource that they have on the project area. The project area is a combination of private land and unpatented mining claims staked on the Tonto National Forest, most of which were staked between 1917 and 1919. They are out on the side of the old Magma Mine. That mine operated from 1912 to 1996.

Mr. Hegner stated that the Town of Superior, much like all the towns in this community, is completely surrounded by the Tonto National Forest and has always been dependent upon the mine for jobs. When the mine closed in 1996, it was absolutely devastating to the community. One thing they are very serious about doing as they go forward is to first, build the mine. It is an underground mine. They are looking at building a mine that will meet the expectations of people in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Mines create tailings and those sorts of things. They are looking at perhaps disposing of tailings in some of the open pits around the area. The hallmark of their project has been to have a low environmental impact. Their operations are based upon environmental stewardship.

Mr. Hegner stated that they want to make sure that if they do take anything that they give back much more than they have taken. About a year ago he met Mr. John Sherman through Mr. Glass. They did a helicopter serviced exploration program. Mr. Sherman is a petroleum geologist. They spoke the same language. He was surprised that they were able to find this area pretty close in to where they are today. One of the greatest things he's done in his professional career is serving on the Board of the Boyce Thompson Arboretum. These sorts of resources are very important to the local community. They will bring jobs to that community, but as they go forward they want to make sure that the community is not dependent upon them as they were in the past. Mr. Ream and Chairman Stewart were present about a month ago when they announced a five-year \$100,000 commitment to trail construction on the Arizona Trail. They are very involved with various programs at Boyce Thompson Arboretum. They see one of the things they can do for the communities there as building an alternative economy based upon recreation and nature tourism as being a great thing that would fit very well into that community. They believe that, being an underground mine, they can fit in very well with that as well.

Mr. Hegner stated that, as part of this land exchange, he now finds himself managing the largest private land holding in Pinal County. That turned out to be harder than he thought it would be; it's a full-time job. As they go forward this will be a critical piece of their exchange. Once they acquire the property they need help managing it. It has been great being here today and listening to some of the other partnerships ASP is working on. They also partner with a number of state entities (ADOT, AZ Game and Fish); they are working very closely with AZ Audubon and TNC. They need help to develop this area; help to manage it going into the future. He then introduced Mr. John Sherman.

Mr. John Sherman, WLG, addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to give a presentation. He noted that some Board members might not know much about rock climbing and

others know quite a bit.

Mr. Sherman then gave a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that he is qualified to judge quality climbing areas because he has been climbing for 30 years, has climbed in all 50 states, has climbed in more than 400 different areas in the US and 12 different countries, has made four trips to very similar quartzite areas in Australia, and has authored numerous books on climbing. He invented the rating scale for granite bouldering problems.

Mr. Sherman referred to a slide depicting Tam O'Shanter Peak itself, for which the area is named. He described various crags (cliffs under 100' tall). The crags here range from 30'-100' tall. The rock is phenomenal for climbing; as good as any he's seen in the entire US. He brought samples from Tam O'Shanter (Tamo) and from Oak Flat. The Oak Flat rock is quite sharper in texture. After a day's climbing on that rock the fingers hurt. The Tamo rock is nice and smooth and very user friendly.

Mr. Sherman described the various types of rock climbing. He noted that someone who climbs at Tamo will develop exceptional all-around skills as a climber. He expects it will launch some tremendous careers for home-grown Arizona climbers who will possibly be amongst the best in the country, if not the world. It would be the first true winter crag destination in Arizona. It has a much longer season than just winter. He reviewed some climbing terms. He noted that the fixed anchors at Tamo are non-removable bolts that are left in place by the first people who climb the route and are used by subsequent ascents. He reviewed the major Southwest winter climbing areas: Hueco Tanks (Texas), Joshua Tree National Monument (California), and Bishop (a collection of areas mostly on USFS lands). Climbers will try to hit all three of these places during the winter. They stop in Arizona thinking there should be good winter climbing here. That isn't really the case – until now. He noted that sport climbing will probably be the most popular form of climbing at Tamo. It uses fixed protection; it is very convenient. Because it doesn't require a lot of gear it is less costly and easier for climbers to get started. There are less decisions to make such as what route to take and what kind of gear to place. It builds tremendous physical power and stamina. It is a dynamic style of climbing. Traditional (trad) climbing requires climbers to place their own protection in the crag. It requires cracks or pockets in the rock that the gear will fit into. It requires the ability to puzzle solve and make decisions. It builds up physical stamina, although it's not as powerful or dynamic as sport climbing. The rewards are substantial because of the mental challenges. There is a lot of potential for this style at Tamo. The rock is featured with a lot of cracks and pockets that accept this sort of gear.

Mr. Sherman discussed "top roping". Tamo has potential for this style of rock climbing as well. Most of the climbing that's done at Oak Flats is top roping and bouldering. There are about 140 boulders wider than 20' at Tamo. The potential for bouldering is limited compared to the potential for the other styles of climbing. There will be bouldering development out there. Some climbers will spend an entire day bouldering. For the most part he believes it will attract sport and trad climbing.

Mr. Sherman noted that the cliffs face all different directions. Climbers can chase the sun or the shade; get out of the wind; find a place to get into the breeze. It is a beautiful place. Scenic beauty adds to the climbing experience. This year the wild flowers were amazing up there. Snow was on the Catalinas. He noted that eventually there will be more sports climbs than trad climbs because it doesn't have the cracks and crevices needed for the natural gear. He expects that out of 900+ climbs, half will be sports climbs with the remainder being trad and top roping. Bouldering potential will be further explored. Some of the boulders are on private land that they have been trying to acquire access to. They don't want to jeopardize any negotiations by climbing on those parcels yet.

Mr. Sherman described how climbs would be established at Tamo. First they would get to the top of the cliff and place safe anchors behind the edge of the cliff. They use the anchors to tie themselves to the rope and cautiously approach the edge of the cliff. Because no one has climbed there before there is often loose rocks along the lip of the cliff. They would then try to move those rocks from the lip of the cliff. They then rappel over the edge of the cliff on a rope and establish a set of permanent ring anchors. Secured to that anchor a climber will lower himself down and clean away loose rock and



dirt on the holes. While doing that, the climber is trying to figure out if it will be suitable as a sport, trad, or top rope climb. For sports climbs, they will climb it on a top rope to climb up the wall while finding the most logical places to put the fixed anchors. After that's all done, they lead up the climb and try to give it a rating and a name to put in the guide book. He distributed a copy of the first guide book.

Mr. Sherman noted that he often gets questions about fixed anchors. The bolts they use are 3/8" diameter by 3" deep or longer stainless steel wedge anchors. They have a shear strength of 60 to 4,000 lbs. The pull out strength is 5,000-6,000+ lbs. It is important to know that modern climbing ropes are designed not to allow any more than 26-27 lbs. of force on the system at any time. The ring anchors they use are rated to a minimum of 300,000 lbs. The bolt hangers are rated 5,000 lbs. They do not have a figure on the lifespan on the bolts. Back in the 1960s and 1970s people placed 1/4" carbon steel bolts that were far weaker than these 3/8" bolts. Those bolts had a lifespan of about 20 years. There's been a big movement in the last 10 years or so to replace those bolts with the 3/8" bolts, preferable stainless steel because they are stronger than the carbon steel bolts regardless of whether it's a corrosive environment or not. He estimates that the lifespan of these bolts will be 30+ years based on the fact the 1/4" bolts lasted 20 years before there was a need to begin replacing them. The 3/8" bolts that have been in place 20 years are not showing signs of failure yet.

Mr. Sherman reviewed climbing areas in Arizona: Granite Mountain near Prescott, Paradise Forks near Flagstaff, Jacks Canyon south of Winslow, Oak Flat (where the mine will be located), Tamo 20 miles southeast of Oak Flat, Mt. Lemon in Tucson, and Cochise Stronghold. Most are over 6500' in elevation and are too cold to climb in the winter. Oak Flat is at 4000' and has the only pleasant winter climate. Tamo is right in that range and has a longer season than Oak Flat because it is situated along the spine of the Dripping Springs Mountains. They are still climbing up there now because of the breezes that come up in the afternoon. The prime climbing season will be from November through April. This is when the greatest visitation will occur from out-of-state climbers. The shoulder seasons would be in May and October. Some out-of-state visitors will still be hanging around. There will still be plenty of in-state visitors. Arizona climbers will climb here throughout the summer and in through September. The day they took staff out it was 111° in Phoenix and it wasn't too bad. It's an easy day trip from both Tucson and Phoenix; it is an easy weekend trip for Flagstaff and Prescott climbers. The bulk of the Arizona climbers will come from those four cities. The quality of climbing will attract out-of-state and international visitors. There will be quite a lot of international travelers who will do the Southwest road trip swing. A lot of them will winter in Joshua Tree and Hueco Tanks and Bishop. It is common for traveling climbers to spend several consecutive weeks or even months at a given area. A climber-friendly park management will attract visitors who feel climbing policies at Hueco Tanks and Joshua Tree are unduly restricted and unwarranted. Those areas are not specifically climbing parks. Hueco Tanks is a state historical park. Joshua Tree is a National Monument. More RV traffic will be attracted through the park. He believes that in an area where climbers are the primary user group a lot of climbers who would think about Hueco Tanks/Joshua Tree as a winter destination will think about Tamo instead because it is a friendlier environment for them.

Mr. Sherman noted that the popularity of Oak Flat is due to its proximity to Phoenix and the annual Phoenix Boulder Blast, not necessarily the quality of the climb. There are relatively few trad climbs there because of the lack of crack systems in the rocks. The rock is very sharp and hurts the fingertips. Climbing sessions are only a couple of hours long. In contrast, at Tamo one can climb all day for many days without harming the fingertips. It is difficult to climb two days in a row at Oak Flat. That's one reason why it has never become a destination crag.

Mr. Sherman stated in summary that he believes this major climbing area is a crown jewel of Arizona climbing areas. Mt. Lemon also has a large variety of climbing similar to this, but its season just starts picking up when Tamo starts getting too hot so the two areas dovetail very nicely. He feels it's the only true winter destination crag. Currently many climbers have been disappointed to go to Oak Flat thinking they were going to have a vacation there and find out that the rock was so sharp



that they decided to go off to Joshua Tree. The scenery is nice. Visitation from local and out-of-state and international climbers should be expected. All four climbing styles are represented. It fills the gap in the road trip being half-way between Huecho and Joshua Tree. It is an excellent resource to compensate for the closures that will occur at Oak Flat.

Mr. Scalzo asked if Mr. Sherman is working for Resolution Copper Co. or the WLG or if he is a volunteer.

Mr. Sherman responded that his checks come from WLG. As far as he knows this is the first time a climber has been hired to actually go out and discover new climbing areas. It is such an unusual situation.

Mr. Scalzo asked for information on the Phoenix Boulder Blast.

Mr. Sherman responded that it is an annual contest that attracts up to 500 climbers in one day in Phoenix. They climb at Oak Flat. While they call it a boulder contest, almost all of the climbs have top ropes. It grew out of the Phoenix Bouldering Contest originally held at areas like the Beardsley Boulder Pile where it was all just bouldering. They kept the name "Phoenix Bouldering Blast" even though it changed locations many times. It's been held at South Mountain, on Camelback, at the Beardsley Boulder Pile, and now at Oak Flat. At Oak Flat it became a lot more top roping than bouldering.

Chairman Stewart asked how Mr. Sherman felt climbing at Tamo compares with Joshua Tree.

Mr. Sherman responded that he would much rather climb at Tamo. He loves the setting at Joshua Tree; the desert is beautiful. However, the rock there is somewhat crumbly to a large extent. Joshua Tree has a very high percentage of mediocre climbs compared to the real good climbs. There are a number of very good climbs there, but it only takes a few visits there to work through the real gems and then one has to either repeat them or do the mediocre climbs. The rock here is utterly superb compared to what is at Joshua Tree. Because the Tamo rock is so hard, when pieces of natural protection is placed the strength of that piece of gear is not limited by the strength of the rock; it is limited by the strength of the gear itself.

Mr. Glass added that this is part of the land exchange. Today Senators Kyle and McCain introduced legislation in the US Congress to authorize and direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to do this land exchange. Congressman Renzi, along with most of the remainder of the Arizona delegation, introduced HR 2618 at the same time. If, in fact the Board decides that this is an opportunity for itself, their goal would be to have a hearing in the next month (or two at the maximum) and amend the Bill with some climber language that certainly ought to include something like a Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease to ASP along with access and other things addressed in the legislation. There is a blank section for climbers and they would add other lands including, hopefully, the project land. Most of this land is BLM. They have met with Mr. Winkleman about some small pieces of State lands that are within the proposed area.

Mr. Scalzo noted that it would be nice if the Senators would also support Land and Water Conservation funding to use that money to finish up the project.

Chairman Stewart asked if any progress has been made on the private land they are trying to acquire for road access.

Mr. Glass responded that it is not needed for road access. It is necessary to cross a portion of private land in order to get to the public land. It consists of two 80-acre pieces that are in a checkerboard, touching at one point. Resolution Copper Co. made a very substantial offer to the owner of that property. The owner stated they have no need for the property and that they want to sell it. They are in another land exchange that is done but was appealed. They don't want to sell it to Resolution Copper at a higher price than fair market value and then have the court tell them to go back and reappraise the property. He believes they will be able to secure that piece. He is not 100% sure just

how yet. Mr. Hegner has taken a personal interest in those negotiations. The good news is that they don't have any need for the property and they want to sell. It's more a question of when. It could be made part of the bill at a hearing. They would like to tell the world about this tremendous discovery. They are between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand they want to tell everyone about Tamo; on the other hand, if there's too much about Tamo it will be difficult to complete the negotiations with the owner of the property. He knows that the Board members will understand their situation. He requested that the Board keep this relatively under their hats because they believe they're there, but very laborious negotiations continue.

Mr. Travous asked where the hearings will be held.

Mr. Glass responded that that decision is really up to Senator Kyle and Congressman Renzi. These are relatively minor matters, ministerial in nature. Typically they would not have hearings. If it becomes controversial, then there would probably be a hearing in the state. The great news is that the Governor and Congressman Pasteur are enthusiastic about this, along with all the Republicans in the delegation. It is bipartisan and has a relatively reasonable chance of moving forward on that basis.

Mr. Travous stated that he met with Ms. Lori Faeth, the agency's liaison with the Governor's Office last week. They discussed this issue, and she commented that she wished everyone would try to do mitigation up front rather than letting it become a nightmare after the public's trust has been breached. It is much easier for a number of groups to get involved in this.

Mr. Porter noted that, obviously, the Board's proceedings are open. Anything the Board passes may very well get publicized. He asked if the Board would be strategically better off not taking any formal action until this has proceeded to a further point. The proposed motion would simply be to tell staff to pursue establishment of a rock climbing park in Gila County subject to resolution of outstanding issues. It doesn't specifically mention Tamo.

Mr. Glass responded that they are between a rock and a hard place. They really need to move the legislation. They would be thrilled with that resolution. Of course, the Board is a public body doing public business and looking out for the public's interest – as are the members of Congress. They certainly would not want the Board to hold up on it because if they are going to add language to the bill to meet the Board's needs they need to have the Board's own internal workings done.

Chairman Stewart stated she sees three issues she would want resolved.

Mr. Ream responded that those issues may be resolved in his presentation. As everyone has said, this is an opportunity. The staff's recommendation did not go out until about 4:00 p.m. yesterday. He had copies for the Board.

Mr. Ream stated that this is an opportunity. Mr. Travous mentioned it is an opportunity; Mr. Glass mentioned it is an opportunity; and staff look at it as an opportunity. The timeframe on this has been very short. Mr. Travous had breakfast with Mr. Glass on March 30. On April 15 Mr. Siegwarth and he met Mr. Sherman in Superior and visited the site. They only had a couple of hours. Mr. Siegwarth made a couple of climbs. They came back and discussed climbing and what it is all about. They made another trip a day later. They wanted to get Mr. Travous and any Board members who could out to the site. They arranged for a helicopter flight. In the meantime he and Mr. Siegwarth visited Oak Flat. If this had been a lake, a dam, and a couple of boat ramps he would not have had any problem running that park. However, he didn't know what all of this entailed. On May 20 he, Mr. Siegwarth, Ms. McVey, and Ms. Krug went to the site and he made both his first and second climbs. He's been excited about this proposal; staff are getting more information about this project minute by minute. Yesterday he got a copy of Mr. Sherman's book and began reading about these climbers and how climbing got started in the US and this popular movement. It is almost mystical the way people talk about climbing in these books. He is getting a better understanding about what climbing is all about.

Mr. Ream added that some staff know something about climbing and they know something about parks. They used Mr. Cordasco's template as they evaluated the project. First, they looked at what effects and impacts it might have on the community. They also looked at resource impacts. Finally, they looked at the money.

Mr. Ream reported that Mr. Glass just reported on the status of the bill. Staff looked at how this fits into the new Vision. We certainly would be recognized nationally and internationally. It is important that it be done right conservation-wise. Staff have a chance to start on the ground floor and do it right and do it well. Our Mission is protecting and conserving and managing cultural, natural, and recreational resources for the benefit of the people – this just makes sense. There is the possibility of their losing their climbing area. In looking at the Strategic Plan this would certainly attract the 18-35 year-old demographic and bringing in new populations into the parks. Staff need to look and see what is on the property. He knows there are Desert Tortoise on the property because he saw one. He saw photographs of Gila Monsters. The budget is a big concern, as well as operations.

Mr. Ream reported that the property's location is the Dripping Springs Mountain. The climbing areas are around Tam O'Shanter Peak. It appears to be just over three sections; a little less than four sections.

Mr. Ream noted that Mr. Eatherly has done a lot of the park evaluations over the years. When told about this opportunity for a new park, Mr. Eatherly came up with a number of questions that staff then tried to find the answers to. While Mr. Eatherly is not a climber, he does understand parks. He uses a thoughtful approach. Staff applied the 6-2000 evaluation to this park. This park scored 128 out of a possible 150 on one evaluation. The highest-ever scoring park was Kartchner Caverns State Park; it scored 112.

Mr. Ziemann noted that the scoring reflects the suitability and feasibility for a particular area to be a park. Staff try to assess both.

Mr. Ream added that, as part of the Strategic Plan, there is an international destination potential; it will attract the 18-35 year-old demographics; it is a cutting-edge opportunity; there are no parks like this in Arizona (most parks that include climbing do so as a secondary part of their main mission and not particularly part of their mission).

Chairman Stewart noted that the Board has discussed the importance of developing amenities Arizona residents want. She believes this fits that and is the kind of place with the number of climbs that Arizona residents would go to and return to and, as a result, perhaps discover some of the other state parks.

Mr. Ream discussed economic development. He noted that this is a hard-hit area. Regarding back country basic experience, he noted that where Joshua Tree is going toward more RV parks, all of our parks are RV parks. This would be a park that probably would not have the RV amenities of 50 amp hook-ups, ramadas, and group areas. It would be much more rugged back country as opposed to using the word "wilderness". He noted there is private land and State Trust land mixed in. That is an issue staff would like resolved. He noted that staff have been looking at resource impacts. They have been looking at the kinds of soils on the property. Should the Board give approval to move forward, these are the kinds of things staff will continue to look at. Other things staff considered included reptiles, mammals, streams and elevations, drainages, and the geology of the area. He discussed the economic impact to the local communities.

Chairman Stewart asked what the driving distance and time from Phoenix and Tucson would be.

Mr. Ream responded that it is about 35-40 minutes from Superior.

Mr. Glass added that the dirt road itself from the turnoff is a four-wheel-drive mining road seven miles long. It takes another half hour to get up that road in its current condition. As a matter of law in the bill they will put up \$250,000 towards access into this area if they can get the deal for

ownership done. They have estimates for the roadwork necessary. If they can just get the land under contract, as a matter of law they will make a nice chunk of money available to improve access into the area.

Chairman Stewart asked if this will be owned by BLM or the USFS.

Mr. Ream responded it would be owned by BLM. He then discussed operations. He noted that staff currently run most of the parks typical to this area (Picacho Peak, Lost Dutchman) that have a recreational component, linked small camping component, and an administrative component with four Ranger FTEs at a cost of about \$250,000 per year in operating costs. It is anticipated, based on talking to the manager at Huecho Tanks and the managers at Bishop that we could expect between 50,000-175,000 people a year to visit a climbing park like this with revenues around \$75,000-\$175,000 a year. We currently have 10 parks that don't make more than \$50,000 per year. It hard to say exactly what kind of revenues that park would bring in. The facilities staff looked at included campgrounds, a rest room facility, potable water, a ranger residence (if not on the park then nearby), trails (potential for mountain biking, watchable wildlife, etc.), and equipment to operate a park such as this (4-wheel drive trucks, etc.).

Mr. Porter asked if there is any potential for the Board to actually go into the business of equipment sales.

Mr. Ream responded that the agency has a fledgling gift shop program. It is now being called the Retail Program because we are getting into things that are not strictly souvenirs. They do sell some camping goods.

Mr. Ream discussed risk management. In talking about climbing, it is frightening. He did not know he wouldn't fall very far. There are ways to mitigate this risk. The key is working with the Attorney General's Office and working with our own Risk Management on how to mitigate this risk and how to lower risk potential. Nine people have already died in water accidents at lakes and rivers in Minnesota and it's not even Memorial Day yet. There are a lot of risks in most of the activities that happen at our parks. He would not expect to get to Memorial Day at Lake Havasu without having some sort of accident. Risk Management is something that just happens when people come to recreational activities.

Chairman Stewart stated that one of the important issues in having fixed anchors is that it says to people that they are safe. She believes that the Board needs to go a step further and contract with someone to come in every six months to a year to inspect them and to spread around that liability. It also shows that the Board is doing everything possible to make things safe by bringing in an independent party to check things out.

Mr. Scalzo responded that he believes that increases liability. He wouldn't touch that.

Mr. Porter agreed.

Chairman Stewart stated that when those anchors are allowed to be left in place, it sends a message.

Mr. Porter disagreed. The more the Board goes in that direction it is like holding out that they are safe. He believes that they must be made as safe as possible but at the same time recognize that that people making use of this facility have to understand, and probably do understand, that they are assuming risk and they will have to sign waivers to do it.

Mr. Travous noted that the agency does not make people sign waivers.

Chairman Stewart noted that they have taken out the anchors at a lot of the federal lands because allowing them to remain in gives the impression of safety. That's why she thinks if we're going to have them then it is important to have some third person come in to evaluate them so that it doesn't all fall on the Board.

Mr. Porter stated he did not disagree; however, he did not want to publicize it. The Board should not



hold itself out as being completely safe.

Chairman Stewart responded that it would be something that would just be done. If there were a lawsuit the Board could say they have done everything possible, and one of those things was bringing someone with more expertise in to inspect them. The Board would not say that this is the safest place to climb.

Mr. Hays asked if the Office of Risk Management might throw up any roadblocks.

Mr. Ream responded that that is their job. They want us to hire a new FTE just to go around annually and inspect just asbestos. They are trying to require it and staff are fighting it.

Chairman Stewart noted that there are probably more boating accidents than climbing accidents because boating and drinking traditionally combine. She would guess that it's probably not as dangerous as people initially think.

Mr. Ream explained that that is Risk Management's initial take and staff work with them on all kinds of things. ASP has a radiation license because of Kartchner Caverns. These are the kinds of things staff will do to mitigate risk. It is always difficult when they get involved. However, the agency's success rate with them has been very good.

Mr. Ream noted that the Board has staff's recommendation before them. It does have some caveats that staff would like to see occur prior to getting into a final decision that this will be an Arizona State Park. They include conveyance of a Recreation for Public Purposes Patent or Lease from the Bureau of Land Management, access, Environmental Assessments, staff need to be sure that less harm than good will occur, look at the cultural resources, and make sure no roads or campgrounds will be placed on top of any ancient Indian burial grounds.

Ms. Stewart asked if staff have any sense of what the RPP lease would be and whether there's any chance of getting one for \$1 per year.

Mr. Travous responded that that's one of the things he spoke with Mr. Glass about. It all depends on how the administration goes. It would be staff's preference to say we are not interested in paying for picking up their risk on the activity; we are interested in picking it up and working it out with the BLM.

Mr. Scalzo stated that the issue is more so the timeline in getting BLM to move. If the legislation can be changed to include that kind of relationship, it becomes very simple.

Mr. Glass noted that that is his point. He wouldn't want to do that without knowing that that's what the Board wanted. Their alternative to ASP is to still have the climbing area on BLM. It would never be managed the way that a state park agency would manage it. It would still be available to the public. Having ASP here gives them a whole different dimension in terms of what the public will actually be offered. While ASP would be offering it, they would want to facilitate it because ASP would have a world class resource here.

Mr. Travous noted that staff have phone call in to Pete Rios' and Rebecca Rios' offices. Even though it's right over the county line, the impact will be in Kearny and Winkleman in his district. Now that the bill has dropped and staff can begin talking about these things, they want to talk with them and the Governor's Office and with the legislature and request that some of the money be restored to the General Fund budget, inform them of what is going to happen, and begin working that angle as well. Staff did not want to begin discussions until they knew that the bill had dropped.

Mr. Ream noted that the packet includes the 1991 economic impact study of Boyce Thompson, also in the area, of more than \$2.5 million. Direct employment was 91 jobs and 32 indirect jobs. This could have quite an economic impact on these two communities. This agency is rural economic development.

Mr. Ream noted that the Board has the staff recommendation and recommended Board action.

Chairman Stewart asked what is being done to resolve the issue of air quality with the smelter.

Mr. Ream responded that Catalina State Park is in a similar same non-containment area, as is Oracle State Park and both Yuma parks.

Chairman Stewart asked if DEQ will help assess the situation.

Mr. Ream responded that they are monitoring the air now.

Chairman Stewart noted that wind direction could make a difference.

Mr. Ream stated that there is a spring there. The question is whether or not there are SO<sub>2</sub> problems in that spring water. That is where staff are currently looking. He doesn't know all of the issues involved in this area. He has driven by there for years looking for a smelter and has not seen anything coming from it.

Mr. Hegner noted that they do run it intermittently and there have been problems over the years. On their mine site they have three different air monitoring stations, each one of them shows a prevailing wind from a different direction. It is a situation where instruments need to be placed there to ascertain what's there.

Mr. Ream added that a lot of these are long-term exposures. At issue would be the rangers' health rather than the visitors'.

Mr. Hegner added that the smelter has been there since 1912. It has been upgraded over the years but it still has problems meeting air quality standards.

Mr. Ream noted that those are the kinds of things staff would do prior to opening a park like this.

### **Board Action**

Mr. Cordasco: I move that the Arizona State Parks Board direct staff to pursue the establishment of a rock climbing park in Gila County subject to the resolution of outstanding issues. Mr. Porter seconded the motion.

Chairman Stewart asked if Mr. Cordasco wished to include those outstanding issues in his motion.

Mr. Travous noted that the outstanding issues are somewhat indefinite. There may be additional issues and that is why staff did not propose they be listed in the proposed motion. It would limit staff if they were listed in the motion and something else was discovered. He suggested that the record reflect that known outstanding issues are listed in the packet the Board received. Those issues, as well as any other issues that arise, need to be resolved.

Chairman Stewart called for a vote on the motion on the floor. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ream recognized the staff who put all of this together yesterday: Mark Siegwarth, who took the lead on it because he has been a climber; the Resource Management staff including Dan Shein, Annie McVey, Chuck Orr and Charles Eatherly; and from Mr. Ziemann's staff Liz Krug, who worked on the statistics. These people dropped what they were doing and got very excited about it even though many of them don't even know where it is. Additionally, Rich Evans in Operations and Janet Hawks dropped what they were doing, and everyone worked independently. Mr. Siegwarth compiled all the data.

Chairman Stewart stated that she believes this is exactly what the Board talked about wanting to do when they did their Strategic Planning session. The Board said it wanted to begin basing its decisions more on factual and scientific information, not to suggest that it wasn't being done to some extent in the past. This really lays it out in an orderly fashion and gives the Board the feeling that they have a process that is analytical and sound.

Mr. Scalzo asked whether the Board was permitted to take action on this item because the Agenda listed it as a presentation by the WLG.

Ms. Hernbrode responded that the top of the Agenda contains the language, "The Board will discuss and may take action on the following matters." That language gives the Board the authority to act.

Chairman Stewart added that the main item is listed as the "Establishment of an Arizona State Parks Climbing Park" with the presentation as a subset. It was worded that way so that the Board could take action.

Mr. Travous noted that a Tam O'Shanter is a hat that was worn during World War I by the Scottish Army. It is a precursor to the berets our own Army wears.

Chairman Stewart stated the Board's appreciation for the efforts Resolution Copper Co. and WLG have put into trying to become partners with the Board. She believes it is an exciting prospect and serves an area of the state and the Southwest that is not really served. She believes that it really does fit in with what the Board has been talking about wanting to become. She expects that the Board will be advised of progress being made.

Mr. Glass thanked the Board and stated that his belief that this will be an exciting initiative. He wished he had it in his state. He finds the most exciting thing as a board member to be opening a new park. This is an extremely unique opportunity and he's glad that the Board took it. They could have done it with the BLM, but it seems like it will work.

Chairman Stewart called for a recess at 4:10 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

## **F. STRATEGIC PLAN**

Chairman Stewart noted that Mr. Cordasco would not be present at tomorrow's meeting. She stated that she wanted to give him the opportunity to speak to the Strategic Plan. She noted that this item is on the Agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

Mr. Travous reported that two weeks ago staff were still struggling with the Strategic Plan. In retrospect, staff were struggling with it back in the Chapter 7 days. As that group was coming up with ideas, Mr. Siegwarth, who really puts this plan together and sends it to the Governor's Office, said that it wouldn't fit with what staff have to send to the Governor's Office. The Chapter 7 members got upset because they thought he was telling them their work was no good. He was telling them it wasn't going to work the way it was done. Staff found themselves in the same exact position. Staff have a Strategic Plan that has to go to the Governor's Office and it has criteria they want staff to follow. Indeed, they have not yet sent the new format for the next year. Staff took the Vision and the values from previous Board meetings and from Chapter 7 and the Board's input in March and included the Scoping process. Under "Options" on the last page of the Scoping process it boiled down to: we need to develop a new image by communicating a clear consistent message that shows our appreciation for the natural, cultural, and recreational values and challenges in Arizona; develop an internal systematic approach that employees can use to move toward that Vision; identify and qualify external advocates and partners and foster ongoing relationships; develop better information and technology; make a major investment in employee training; and explore a stable initiative. Staff took those six options and tried to squeeze them into the format that must go to the Governor; it just confused and obscured what the agency is trying to do.

Mr. Travous stated that, in essence, staff have two Strategic Plans for the Board. The one that causes confusion is the one that goes to the Governor's Office; the other, which he calls the Vision and Design to avoid confusion, would be the work plan for next year for following the Vision. The two can be separated. Staff believe that the Board is interested, as a group, in what staff are going to do to follow the Vision. Staff rolled that into three different issues.

Mr. Travous stated that the first issue is that the agency needs to move toward its new Vision. As it does, the funding constraints require seeking solutions to the information technology, training, and partnerships. Mr. Siegwarth will take Goal 1. At the next meeting staff will have objectives under what needs to be done over the next year to improve our technology. He will also take Training

since that is in his area and state what staff will do when it comes to training for staff in meeting that Vision. Under Goal 3, Partnerships, for Objectives Mr. Ream will develop strategic relationships with universities. Some of that has already begun with Arizona State University. He will initiate proactive programs between SHPO and parks. This is something that Mr. Porter has talked about in the past. The issue is that SHPO wants things 60% done before they comment. They are being given the opportunity to be proactive on a couple of issues, namely, the porch around the San Rafael Ranch. It is becoming an issue and staff need to get it done; staff want SHPO to be proactive in helping to get it done. The Board will probably see that as an objective.

Chairman Stewart suggested that McFarland and Oracle should be included with San Rafael.

Mr. Travous added that Ms. Statler will be responsible for instituting an Ambassador program connecting agency support groups. A lot of things are going on and they are not coordinated well – between the volunteers, between the Site Stewards, between a lot of different groups, including the Foundation. Ms. Statler is being asked to put together an Ambassador program to bring them all under one roof.

Mr. Travous stated that Mr. Ream will develop more park programs and friends groups in conjunction with Ms. Statler. Mr. Ream will be responsible for that objective because he has direct line of authority organizationally. Mr. Ream's other objective is to increase volunteer corps numbers and to develop a model relationship on the Verde River Greenway with TNC and SRP and cities and counties to try to make it a model for the way staff go about working with partnerships.

Mr. Travous stated the second issue is to communicate the new Vision, the Agency will establish and present a clear and consistent image to its internal and external customers. The first goal is to develop a simple strategy through marketing and public information. When staff tried to do this before, it got so like a spider web that it became another plan that looks like what is sent to the Governor's Office. It is to be simple and clear so that the Board will be able to understand that the markets the Board wants to hit are being hit and how staff will go about hitting those markets. Mr. Ziemann will have that goal. The second goal, initiate a grant manual review process to incorporate the new Vision, will also be Mr. Ziemann's responsibility. AORCC will be looking at that. A sincere effort will be made to see that the grants process follows the new Vision.

Mr. Travous stated that the third goal, to develop a cadre of private / non-profit advisors toward pursuit of the Vision, is his responsibility. He wants to bring in people like Mr. Graham and Mr. Propst who do this day in and day out and have them meet with Executive Staff and talk about how they go about organizing and doing what they do so staff can learn from them on an individual basis.

Mr. Travous stated that the fourth goal, to pursue establishment as a parks and conservation agency, was not done to anger anyone who doesn't like the word "conservation" but to be bold, knowing that this is a long-term pursuit. Internally, that means there is a need for training and goal setting. Externally, it means that staff will endorse and work with geographic partners (like the Verde River and Santa Cruz River) and work with programmatic partners such as the Historical Society and trails groups. As staff look at this conservation / parks / resource management issue, the more we connect and see ourselves connected with these outside groups, not just through our parks but programmatically in what we do, the better known we will become and the more people like Mr. Glass will come to ASP initially. Mr. Glass said they talked to TNC and the Sonoran Institute about the conservation stuff. When they came up with a recreation idea they talked to ASP. It would have been nice if they had come and talked to ASP about the conservation things. The goal would have been that Mr. Glass would have known about ASP for its conservation efforts and talked with staff right away.

Mr. Travous noted that the final goal under this issue is to pursue PAMS programs for all parks. Staff are getting better at this. Mr. Ream took a PAMS approach to the climbing park. Staff brought in all the information they could.



Mr. Travous stated that the third issue is that the Strategic Plan will provide a systematic approach to move the Agency towards the new Vision. He noted that he is a “right brain” thinker. He is not a systematic thinker. He is more the arts than the science end of things. For staff to really push this forward, a system needs to be instituted internally that holds our feet to the fire. He proposes that for each of these goals a three-person review team will be established to monitor each goal. Those review teams will not be made up of Executive Staff; they will be three people from within the organization, depending on the goal, who will monitor the goal. It could be a Regional Manager; it could be a Park Manager; it could be the PIO or the Graphics Artist. These internal review teams will be developed; they will come back to Executive Staff bi-monthly; staff will come to the Board quarterly with progress reports and recommend changes as necessary throughout the year. Next year this whole process would be reviewed again to see where strides have or have not been made. In essence, he is asking the Board to separate this from the information that is sent to the Governor’s Office that is so numbers driven. It’s not that staff do not want the Board to talk about it; it’s just that staff believe that this is where the Board wants staff to focus. If the Board likes the goals, staff will bring more objectives back to the Board in July.

Mr. Cordasco noted that there are three goals under Issue 1: technology, training and partnerships. He asked where economics would fall. In order for anything to happen there has to be the economics.

Mr. Ziemann noted that is a good point. To lose all the work of Project 11 and the efforts staff have made and its importance and abandon it will leave a lot of people within the organization feeling left out.

Mr. Travous stated that staff talked about the economic impact of the communities and the budget. Staff are talking about making that part of the PAMS process, too. It is perhaps too hidden in this document.

Mr. Cordasco noted the word “sustainability” is a word that is used big time in all kinds of different ways. Undoubtedly, for clarity in the future, the way that word is defined is important. He appreciates that it can be found in the dictionary and written down. However, the point is that in the efforts of resource management today, the meaning of “sustainability” is evolving very quickly. To be a leader in resources management, it is very important to understand what “sustainability” is because that, after all, is what resource management is about.

Chairman Stewart suggested that the way to bring economics in may be as a sustainability issue.

Mr. Cordasco responded that that is why economics will go through everything in that document; sustainability may be economical like the rock climbing park. It could be vegetation; it could be water; it could be birds. It’s a lot broader. While it’s a technical adjustment, it is in the resource management area. It is evolving very quickly. To maintain that leadership we need to understand what it is.

Chairman Stewart asked if that would be another goal.

Mr. Cordasco responded negatively. At this point, we don’t even know what it means.

Mr. Travous stated that staff would talk about it between now and the next meeting.

Mr. Porter suggested that may need to be part of the assessment criteria on the evaluations.

Mr. Cordasco noted that we need to know what being a “sustainable organization” means.

Chairman Stewart noted that Mr. Cordasco brought up the idea of making science-based decisions and putting more emphasis on the resource. She asked if he feels what the Board has before it captures that concept or if something else needs to be included.

Mr. Cordasco responded that he believes this is all a work-in-progress. Everyone has been learning and it’s been evolving. In looking back at what he thought it would be, it has already evolved and moved forward. He stated that he could not say enough about Mr. Travous’ and staff’s efforts. They

are driving towards this, and the Board needs to have some trust that their instincts and skills will continue to evolve it.

Chairman Stewart asked if Mr. Cordasco sees anything else that needs to be added since he would not be at tomorrow's discussion on this issue.

Mr. Cordasco apologized for not being able to be at that meeting, but noted that his responsibilities at the ranch are not a lot different; the models sort of parallel each other. They recently reviewed a similar plan. What staff call "goals" they call "multiple bottom lines analysis". They have four. They are organizational. In their case it would be: family business (relationships with the employees, etc.), economics (opportunities and needs), environmental (understand what the impacts – negative and positive – are on the environment and to be aware of them), and community (decisions they make may or may not have impacts on neighbors or rural communities around the area or on a regional basis). By individually looking at those components and collectively putting them together, they will hopefully be able to make better decisions or the best decisions they can make. The environmental component was clearly the science – stewardship, etc. It is very similar. He believes we are all learning. He thinks it's great.

Mr. Scalzo stated that the difference he sees between the two documents is that the Governor's Office requires very fine, measurable results. It will be more difficult to define real results in the other document. For example, to initiate an Ambassador program connecting agency support groups – how will staff know when that's done?

Mr. Travous responded that objectives will be added under that goal that will allow for measurable results and ways to measure.

Mr. Scalzo noted that sometimes there needs to be a timeline for completing an objective.

Mr. Travous responded that staff will do that. He added that this document is for the Board and staff. This could be called a white paper report. The Governor could use it as she wishes.

Mr. Travous noted that Mr. Ream has said that while staff are doing all of these things, his goal for next year is to keep all of the parks open. While staff are doing these things, a lot of other things are going on. If suddenly Slide Rock closes, everything else falls apart. These are the things the Governor (and the Board) is interested in – the things that must be maintained.

Chairman Stewart asked if staff looked at the Land Department's Strategic Plan. They seem to meet the Governor's need for measuring goals and yet have a lot of things that deals with the same kinds of issues the Board is talking about. She has a copy and noticed that they have managed to have one document that meets both needs. She suggested continuing that discussion at tomorrow's meeting.

Mr. Ream noted that he is not a big strategic planning person. He is trying to keep 30 parks open. When he first saw this document, he saw his name all over it. He sat down with Ms. Statler and Ms. Hawks and began talking about what it means to them and what they will do. He came up with an idea for opening Sonoita Creek. There is a great potential of completing the trail system there and opening Sonoita Creek to the public. He began weaving that through these objectives. He found that he could weave it through not only some of his objectives (partnerships, working with universities, friends groups, bringing in TNC, etc.), it also falls under marketing, training, technology (PAMS), etc. He began thinking of ways to get these objectives done and how to apply it to keeping 30 parks open. He got excited about it. He set up a strategic meeting with the people who would be involved to see how things will get done. Normally, he hates to do lists. In this case, it fits in with what he is trying to do. He is excited about that.

Mr. Cordasco noted that with the leadership staff are undertaking, he believes that ASP should feel free to be a little bit stronger. For instance, ASP will develop a new image by communicating a clear and consistent message that shows our appreciation – he would say "demonstrates".

Chairman Stewart stated that the Board appreciates Mr. Cordasco's taking time from his busy

schedule to make this trip.

Mr. Cordasco noted that Imax and Disney did a video on the Mars Rover. They tested the Mars Rover on Babbitt's Ranch before sending it to Mars. They are receiving an award from the American Quarter Horse Association. It is a very significant award within the industry. They are filming a documentary on the Babbitt's and some of their horses. It will be on TV in the Fall. It is a good thing, not only for the Babbitts but for the employees who work very hard to get to that level of horses. They did some of the interviews yesterday.

Chairman Stewart then took a point of personal privilege. She stated that, as Chairman of the Board, she is very happy to report that in carrying on the tradition that has been established the last couple of years, one of our recent graduates of CARLOTA, James Knotts, won the Russell L. Duncan Award. This award is given to the person who is voted by his teammates as having the most professionalism, team building, leadership, etc. It is the most prestigious award. ASP has done very well at CARLOTA, even though the agency has a small percentage of the total class. Our employees are always at the top. Several times our employees have walked away with top honors. On behalf of the Board, she extended the Board's congratulations to James Knotts.

## **G. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Porter made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Scalzo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Following the meeting some Board members toured Fool Hollow Lake State Park. No business was conducted during that tour.

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SUBMITTED BY:

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Kenneth E. Travous, Executive Director

APPROVED BY:

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Elizabeth Stewart, Chairman